Setting up of National Institute of Sugarcane and Sugar Technology in U.P.

3637. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by Government on setting up of National Institute of Sugarcane and Sugar Technology at Mau in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether there is any proposal to close-down the Institute before its opening;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the fate of the employees already employed in the Institute; and

(d) if not, by when the Institute would start its functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): An estimated amount of Rs. 15.87 crores has been spent by the Government on National Institute of Sugarcane and Sugar Technology, Mau, from 1993-94 till 2000-01.

(b) and (c) The Central Monitoring Group of the Ministry of Finance, in its meeting held on 27th January, 2000 has recommended that as NISST has not yet fully developed as an Institution, it may be wound up and the assets be transferred to any Central/State Agency looking for accommodation in that area. The Group has also recommended that the activities proposed to be taken up at NISST may be entrusted to National Sugar Institute, Kanpur.

In view of this recommendation, the Government is considering the feasibility of transferring the assets of NISST to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) an Institute under the Ministry of Agriculture. A final decision from ICAR is still awaited.

As regards the employees already in position, the matter will be

taken up with the ICAR after its decision on taking over the assets of NISST.

(c) In view of the circumstances brought out in (b) and (c) above, no fixed date can at present be intimated.

Wastage and theft of foodgrains from FCI Godowns

3638. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of foodgrains which is wasted and stolen from the godowns of FCI during the last three years;

(b) the amount involved in such incidents;

(c) whether Government have taken any measures to prevent such thefts in the godowns of FCI; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Foodgrains are lost in storage due to driage of moisture, multiple handling and prolonged storage.